



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Executive Office for United States Trustees

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*Washington, DC 20530*

October 4, 2005

Jane Schuchardt, Ph.D.  
National Program Leader  
Cooperative State Research, Education,  
and Extension Service, USDA  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250-2215

Dear Dr. Schuchardt,

I am pleased to inform you that two partners in the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service ("CSREES") are the first approved providers of university-based debtor education services for persons in bankruptcy. K-State Research and Extension of Sedgwick County (Kansas) and University of Missouri Extension have been approved to provide debtor education courses required under the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. We look forward to the valuable contributions of additional academic institutions and to the services of other CSREES partners in the near future.

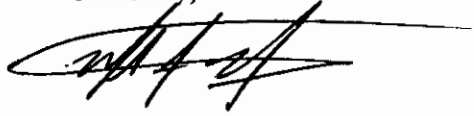
The mission of the land-grant universities and their state and local Cooperative Extension partners is to create and disseminate knowledge in communities across the nation. Many partner institutions have been meeting community educational needs for more than a century. In recognition of the unique role and experience of partner universities, the United States Trustee Program has developed a streamlined application process for accredited institutions of higher education seeking approval as debtor education providers consistent with the requirements of the new bankruptcy law. The Program will issue supplementary guidance to assist such institutions and partners in submitting information for consideration in their applications and will be available to answer any questions.

The United States Trustee Program appreciates the interest that land-grant universities and partners have shown in meeting the educational needs of consumers and debtors in bankruptcy. We invite you to encourage your colleagues at other universities to submit applications for approval as debtor education course providers as soon as possible. Their applications will receive prompt review. Approved curricula may be shared among universities.

Through the high-quality instructional courses offered by institutions of higher education, debtor participants hopefully will be able to chart new financial futures and prevent recurrence of severe personal financial hardships.

We look forward to successful collaboration with CSREES and partner institutions in meeting this critical educational need across the nation. Should you or your partner universities have questions or need assistance, feel free to contact the U.S. Trustee Program's Credit Counseling and Debtor Education group at (202) 514-4100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Neal', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark A. Neal  
Assistant U.S. Trustee

cc: Steven Dillingham, Acting Principal Deputy Director  
Jeffrey Miller, Associate Director